(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the method to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Impact of Oil Slick in sea**

831. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the opinions expressed by some experts that the adverse impact of the Oil Slick in the sea by Iraq during the current Gulf War would be felt in India sometime in April this year;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal of carrying out a test of the sea water in the Western Coast by National Institute of Oceanography, Goa; if necessary, by engaging more scientific staff for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when this work is likely to start; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor and the manners by which Government propose to counter the adverse effect of the Oil Slick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the opinion expressed by some experts that the adverse impact of the Oil Slick in the sea during the current Gulf War would be felt in India sometime in April this year. However, the expert advice as available to Government from within is that the impact of the present Oil Slick in the Gulf will remain confined to the Gulf itself due to Oceanographic conditions there and thus the impact on the Indian Coast, if any, would be negligible. Notwithstanding this advice, Government have decided to send a multidisciplinary special cruise from Mormagao to North West Arabian Sea to collect the latest base line data. The cruise will commence this work shortly. The scientific staff available at the national institutions would be sufficient for carrying out this work.

**Increasing assaults on journalists**

832. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the increasing assaults on journalists in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce a risk insurance scheme for the journalists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Expert Committee set up by the Government to look *inter alia* into issues of safety, health and hygiene have also dealt with the matter pertaining to occupational hazards for journalists. The Expert Committee submitted its report on 15th January, 1991, which is engaging the attention of the Government.

**Changes in the working of creches**

833. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, has issued an order in September, 1990 effecting changes in the working of creches and requiring the parents of the children whose age is more than 7 years to shift their children with 31st March, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that previously the children upto the age of 12 years were being allowed in these creches;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for changing the earlier policy;

(d) whether Government are aware that the lowering of age will put the working parents to a lot of difficulties;

(e) whether Government propose to review the decision, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is a fact that the number of creches in Delhi is highly inadequate and there are demands for opening more such creches and for increasing the capacity of existing creches; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the areas in Delhi where Government propose to open more such creches in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Creches in various Central Government colonies/office premises and in Community Centres were established by the Grih Kalyan Kendra primarily for children in the age group of 90 days to 7 years. However, as a temporary measure, children beyond 7 years of age were permitted to continue till such time as this was not found inconvenient to the children of the specified age groups. In view of the fact that there is shortage of accommodation and the demand for admission of children in the age group of 90 days to 7 years has greatly increased, the Kendra is not in a position to accommodate such children who are above the specified age group. Sufficient advance notice of six months was given to the affected parents to enable them to make alternative arrangements.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. However as the capacity of existing creches can not be increased due to shortage of space, the Department has planned to set up new creches in every Samaj Sadan as and when they come up.

**Telecasting need based and purpose orienttd serials on Doordarshan**

834. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals with the Doordarshan to telecast need based and purpose oriented serials on the topics such as rearing up of children, establishing harmony between the spouses etc. with different social and personal problems with scientific attitude; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has been telecasting need based and purpose oriented serials on socially relevant topics. Under the new sponsorship scheme opened in October last year also, proposals for serials were invited in various categories such as social themes, family serials, children's interest serials, Science serials, etc. These are presently being processed by Doordarshan for approval.

**Divisive forces in J&K**

835. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that divisive forces in Jammu & Kashmir are openly playing anti-Indian role;

(b) if so, what steps were taken by Government to curb these activities; and

(c) what is the role of Pakistan in promoting such activities in Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND